

by permission, yet the Board of Education did not feel at liberty to expend any State money in their aid, which was a little ungallant for so chivalrous a people as ours, who are so well aware that as a general rule our female teachers are better than the males. The excellently worded memorial of the teachers themselves which accompanies the report of Prof. Battle, is especially commended to your favor.

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

The Establishment by the last Legislature, in pursuance of the constitution, of a Department of Agriculture was a very important step indeed to the welfare of this State. As was to have been expected the law has in some respects proven defective, and will require some amending at your hands, but in the main it is an admirable one. It is the first step ever made in the direct interest of Agriculture, and has been hailed by our farming people with great satisfaction. So far this bureau has cost the people nothing, the tax on license to sell fertilizers having yielded sufficient revenue for all its purposes. As soon as possible after the passage of the law in 1877, the organization of the Board of Agriculture was completed by the election of the two intelligent farmers who now occupy seats in it, a Commissioner was elected, a Secretary and Treasurer chosen, and work began immediately. For the results of the first two years, I refer you to the accompanying report of the commissioner, Col. L. L. Polk, which sets out everything in detail. I regard the beginning as excellent. The chief difficulty in the way of doing any new thing among a people so conservative as ours is in securing their prompt co-operation. It was found very difficult at first to awaken an active interest in the operations of the bureau, but the impression once produced is lasting, and enlarging. Special attention has been given